

In the claims:

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response.

1. -24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving information from ~~at least~~ two different remote servers representing different providers regarding available resource items from the respective providers;

receiving a user request for ~~[[a]] tentative hold on an~~ holds on two different available ~~[[item]]~~ resource items;

sending ~~[[a]] the tentative hold request for an~~ requests for the two available resource ~~[[item]]~~ items to the corresponding remote ~~server~~ servers in response to the user request, wherein the tentative holds reserve the two resource items without excluding other tentative holds for the two resource items; and

~~receiving confirmation of the tentative hold from the corresponding remote server, the tentative hold, the tentative hold reserving the resource item without excluding other tentative holds for the resource item;~~

if each tentative hold request is granted for the two resource items, sending a reservation request for the two resource items to the user item to the corresponding remote server in response to a user confirmation for the resource item, the reservation excluding other reservations for the two resource [[item]] items.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein receiving information comprises receiving the information at a transaction coordinator of a client system operated by the user and wherein sending a tentative hold request and sending a reservation request comprise sending by the transaction coordinator.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein sending from the transaction coordinator comprises sending to a remote transaction manager, the transaction manager being connected to the remote servers and causing a tentative hold ~~record~~ records to be created and associated with the two resource ~~[[item]]~~ items.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein sending a reservation ~~request~~ comprises the transaction coordinator directing ~~[[the]]~~ a commitment of a transaction corresponding to the tentative ~~[[hold]]~~ holds after successfully gaining the tentative ~~[[hold]]~~ holds on the two resource items and receiving confirmation from the transaction manager regarding the tentative ~~[[hold]]~~ holds.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the directing the commitment of the transaction comprises initiating conventional Two-Phase Commit (2PC) prepare and commit processing for the transaction.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein sending a tentative hold ~~request~~ requests comprises sending call back information.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 30, further comprising receiving a notification ~~[[form]]~~ from the corresponding remote server using the call back information, the notification indicating that the corresponding resource item is no longer available and notifying the user accordingly.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the tentative hold records are stored at an intermediate server that is not within the providers offering the two resource items.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein sending a reservation ~~request~~ comprises requesting ~~[[an]]~~ exclusive ~~[[lock]]~~ locks on the two resource ~~[[item]]~~ items.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the tentative ~~hold~~ has a timeout holds have timeouts.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, further comprising receiving a user request for a resource item, and querying the different providers for corresponding available resource items in response to the user request, before receiving information.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, further comprising sending a tentative hold ~~request~~ requests for a plurality of additional items, receiving confirmations of the tentative holds for the additional items, and reporting the confirmed tentative holds to the user.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising sending reservation requests for a portion of the additional items in response to a user confirmation for the additional items.

38-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving information from ~~at least~~ two different remote servers representing different providers regarding available resource items from the respective providers;

receiving a user request for ~~[[a]] tentative hold on an~~ holds on two different
available ~~[[item]]~~ resource items;

sending ~~[[a]] the tentative hold request for an~~ requests for the two available
resource ~~[[item]]~~ items to the corresponding remote ~~server~~ servers in response to the user
request, wherein the tentative holds reserve the two resource items without excluding
other tentative holds for the two resource items; and

~~receiving confirmation of the tentative hold from the corresponding remote~~
~~server, the tentative hold, the tentative hold reserving the resource item without excluding~~
~~other tentative holds for the resource item;~~

if each tentative hold request is granted for the two resource items, sending a
reservation ~~request~~ for the two resource items to the user ~~item to the corresponding~~
~~remote server in response to a user confirmation for the resource item~~, the reservation
excluding other reservations for the two resource ~~[[item]]~~ items.

42. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 41, wherein the instruction
are further to receive a user request for a resource item, and query the different providers
for corresponding available resource items in response to the user request, before
receiving information.

43. (Currently Amended) The medium of Claim 41, further comprising
instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising:

sending a tentative hold ~~request~~ requests for a plurality of additional items;

receiving confirmations of the tentative holds for the additional items;

reporting the confirmed tentative holds to the user; and

sending reservation requests for a portion of the additional items in response to a user confirmation for the additional items.

44. (Currently Amended) A distributed transaction processing system comprising:

a distributed transaction coordinator executing on a first client system, the distributed transaction coordinator to place tentative holds on each of a plurality of resource items associated with a transaction that spans a plurality of network resources, the tentative holds reserving the respective resource [[item]] items without excluding other tentative holds for the resource items, and to commence completion of the transaction by obtaining exclusive locks on each of the plurality of resource items after the tentative holds have been successfully granted on each of the plurality of resource items by each of the plurality of servers, wherein the plurality of resource items are from different service providers; and

a distributed transaction manager executing on a server system communicatively coupled with a plurality of client systems including the first client system, the distributed transaction manager to maintain a plurality of tentative holds for each of a plurality of resource items associated with the server system, [[and]] to grant only one exclusive lock per single resource item of the plurality of resource items at a given time in response to requests from distributed transaction coordinators, and to send a reservation for the plurality of resource items if each tentative hold request is granted for the plurality of resource items.

45. (Previously Presented) The distributed transaction processing system of Claim 44, wherein the distributed transaction coordinator includes a Two-Phase Commit transaction coordinator.

46. (Currently Amended) The distributed transaction processing system of Claim 44, wherein the distributed transaction manager is further to notify other distributed transaction coordinators that ~~[[a]] tentative hold for a resource item has~~ holds for resource items have been suspended upon granting the exclusive lock for the two resource ~~[[items]]~~ items.

47. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising if each tentative hold request is not granted for each resource item, cancelling any granted tentative holds and notifying the users of the cancellation.

48. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the reservation comprises an atomic distributed transaction.

49. (New) The medium of Claim 41, further comprising instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising if each tentative hold request is not granted for each resource item, cancelling any granted tentative holds and notifying the users of the cancellation.

50. (New) The medium of Claim 41, wherein the reservation comprises an atomic distributed transaction.

51. (New) The distributed transaction processing system of Claim 44, wherein the distributed transaction manager generates an atomic distributed transaction including the plurality of resource items.